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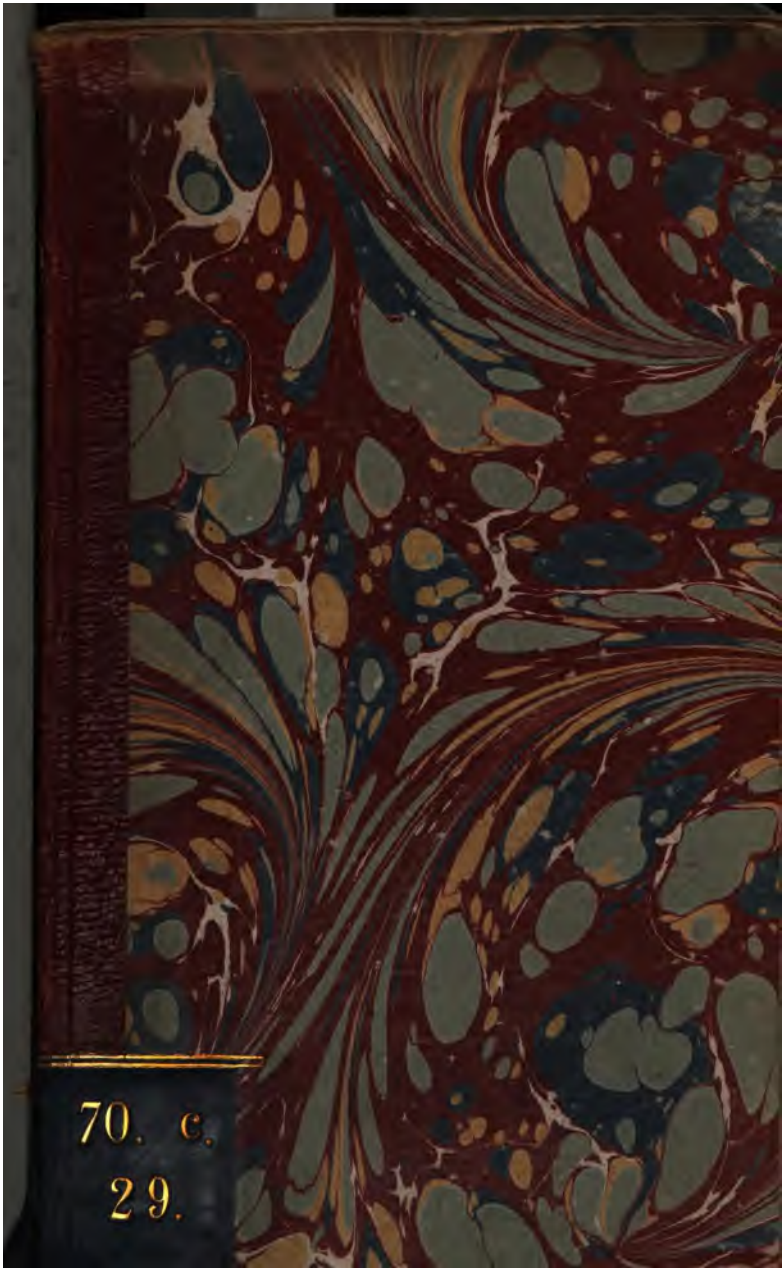
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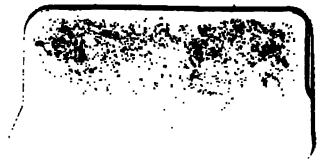

Menander and *Aurelia*:

OR, THE

TRIUMPH

OF

Love, *and* Conſtancy.

A NOVEL.

Raræ Aves in terris-------

Enter'd according to the Act of Parliament.

LONDON,
Printed, and Sold by B. MILLES, in *Houndſ-ditch*, near *Biſhopſ-gate*; and A. DODD, without *Temple-Bar*.
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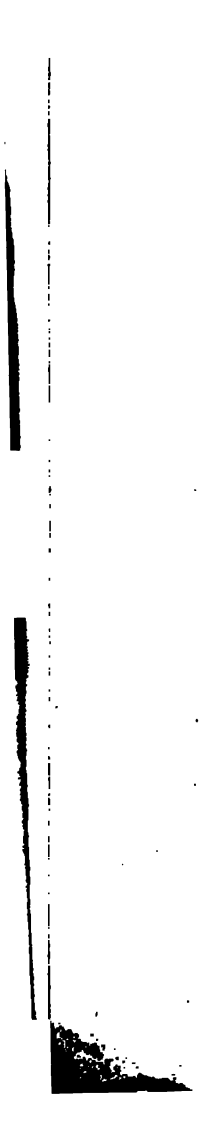

TO THE

READER.

Courteous READER,

IF *the Pleaſure in Reading the following Story, is equal to That in Writing it, the Publiſher will have no Reaſon to complain for want of Succeſs: The Publications of late give Ground to believe, that neither* Matter of Fact, Circumſtances, *nor* Stile *are of much Conſequence to the Taſte of the Town. The Bookſellers Maxim has moſtly obtain'd, that* That is the beſt Book which ſells beſt; *and Publick Taſte has confirm'd it. Methinks I hear ſome ſay of* The Triumph of Love and Conſtancy; *What is the Author mad to write on ſuch a poor, and inſipid Subject; at a Time, when its* Contraries *are in full Power, and Poſſeſſion among all Degrees of People!*

To the READER.

Admitting that the World is againſt me, this I will ſay in Behalf of my Subject, That the Story *is* Matter of Fact; *and that* One Truth *is preferable to* a thouſand Fictions; *and* One Noble, *and* Vertuous Action *to* ten thouſand baſe, *and* wicked Ones.

Were Vertuous Love, *and* Truly-Noble, *and* Generous Actions *more ſuited to the Taſte of the* Great, *and more in Practice among them; it would then be as much a Shame among the meaner People to be vicious, and wicked, as 'tis now out of Faſhion to be Vertuous, and Pious. And ſhould ſuch a Change paſs on the People, all ſuch Places of* Diverſions *and* Entertainments *(the Conſumers of* Time, Money, *and oftentimes* Reputation *too;) would fall into their own deſerved Contempt and Ruin; and then would* Deſpiſed, Vertuous Love, *and* Courtſhip *run in their Proper Channels; and be ſucceeded by many* Happy, *and* Proſperous Marriages, *is the Hearty Wiſh of*

The AUTHOR.

Menander and *Aurelia*:

OR, THE

TRIUMPH

OF

Love, *and* Conſtancy.

MENANDER was a Perſon of a very Noble Extraction, deſcended from the Ancient Family of the *LOVILLIANS*, whoſe particular Atchievements againſt the *Calmuc - Tartars* will ever remain freſh in Memory: His Eſtate was not deſpiſable, and his Extraordi-

nary Qualifications, with the Nobility of his Deſcent, recommended him ſo far to the Favour of his Prince, that He beſtow'd on him a very Conſiderable Poſt, in which he manag'd with ſo much Diſcretion and Juſtice, that he gain'd the Admiration, and Affections of all thoſe, who made their Application to him.

He was Affable, and Courteous in his Converſation with all Perſons in general; not excepting even thoſe who were far inferiour to himſelf: The Learned, and Wiſe admir'd him for his Judgment, and the lower Claſs of Men were delighted with his free, and pleaſant Carriage: Yea, the Fair Sex were charm'd with the Report of his Character, and judg'd him a Perſon worthy of their Regard, and Eſteem, both with reſpect to his Generoſity, and the Modeſty of his Behaviour, as well as the Comelineſs of his Perſon, which was very acceptable to them.

As

As his Poſt was conſiderable, and requir'd much Attendance, ſo the moſt Part of his Time was taken up in the Diſpatch of the Buſineſs relating to it; which, when accompliſh'd (till when he would never leave it) he uſually betook himſelf to thoſe Amuſements and Diverſions, which were ſuited to that ingenious Temper he was always Maſter of.

Among the Variety of his Diverſions, his chief Delight was the Enjoyment of his Friends, who were generally Perſons agreeable to his Age, Taſte, and Temper.

There were among them ſome particular Friends, in whoſe Converſation he took more than ordinary Pleaſure; One of whom was named *Sarinus*, whoſe Affection, and Friendſhip towards *Menander*, began when very young; and, by the Continuance of a mutual Converſation, their Friendſhip ſo encreas'd, that Each of them never thought himſelf really happy with-

out the Enjoyment of the Other's Company.

Sarinus was a Perſon well deſcended, and enjoy'd a very great Eſtate, which his Father left him; he had all the Advantages of Education that was poſſible; he had travell'd much, he had read much, and had all Opportunities for the Attainment of the fineſt Accompliſhments. When he was a Youth, he had the Character of being very Affable, and obligingly Civil; all which gave very great Grounds of Hope, that he might in Time attain to ſome extraordinary Degree of Fortune, Grandeur, and Eſteem; and might one Day be the Joy and Delight of his Friends: But however it was, whether he valu'd himſelf on Account of his Birth, and Fortune, or the great Improvement of his Knowledge by Travel, or any other Matter, was not known; but a very diſagreeable Alteration there was in his Temper, let the Occaſion be what it will:

will: Yet it was generally ſuppos'd, that his Coming of a ſudden to the Poſſeſſion of ſo great an Eſtate, as ſoon as he arriv'd from his Travels, had puff'd him up with ſo much Pride and Vanity, as to imagine himſelf on an Equality with his Superiours; and to treat, with the utmoſt Contempt, all thoſe, who were in any reſpect beneath him.

His great Riches were an Anſwer to all Objections; for tho' he was in ſome meaſure ſenſible, that notwithſtanding all the Advantages he had by them, they were not ſufficient to render him a compleat Gentleman; yet his Abundance, he fancy'd, would be very great Additions; for tho' he enjoy'd not thoſe Qualifications of the Mind, and wanted that perſonal Appearance which Others had; he was poſitive, that Gold, all-powerful Gold had that ſovereign Virtue, as to anſwer, and attone for all Defects both of Body, and Mind.

But whatever his Behaviour was towards Others, *Menander* had ſo great a Share in his Eſteem, that no One, who knew them, and the Greatneſs of their Friendſhip, would ever have believ'd it poſſible, there would have been a Separation ſo fatal between them.

Menander (as his uſual Cuſtom was, either to pay, or receive Viſits;) took one Evening, at the Concluſion of his Affairs, to pay his Reſpects to his Intimate Friend *Sarinus*, who receiv'd him with all the uſual Marks of Friendſhip and Eſteem; and after ſome Time ſpent in various Diſcourſes concerning his Travels, and other Matters, he propos'd to *Menander* an hunting Match, and for that End appointed a Day; telling him, that he expected ſome particular Friends, whom he had engag'd to partake with him in the Diverſion; which Company, he did not doubt, wou'd be very acceptable to him. He urg'd the Matter ſo very

very ſtrenuouſly, that *Menander* could not by any Means poſſible deny his Requeſt; and accordingly promis'd his Company.

At the Time fix'd, the Company met at the Place of Rendezvous; from whence they proceeded to the Wood, where the Stagg was, which they propos'd to run down. They immediately rous'd him, but in the Chace, which was very violent, *Menander* by ſome Miſchance loſt the reſt of his Company; and he, not knowing which Way to overtake them, thought it moſt convenient to make the beſt of his Way homeward; which he was much puzzl'd to find, being enclos'd in a great Wood, and at a conſiderable Diſtance from the Road.

As he rode along, according to the Guidance of his Fancy, ſuppoſing this, and the other Way to be right, the Sun was juſt on the Point of ſetting: This put him into great Perplexity, not that he wanted ſo much

much to be at Home, as that he had loſt his Company, and his Way; and could not perceive, but that in all Likelyhood, the Wood was to be his Lodging for that Night; for tho' he call'd out often, and as loud as he could, and look'd every Way about; yet could he not diſcern either Houſe, or Lodge.

But as he was thus penſively riding on, he diſcern'd the Trees to be ſomewhat thinner than he obſerv'd before; this gave him ſome Hopes of a ſpeedy Releaſe from thoſe Shades: And accordingly it fell out to his Wiſh, for after having rode a little Way further, he found himſelf out of the Wood, on the Entrance of a large Heath, over which he made the beſt of his Way: He was no ſooner over the Heath, but he perceiv'd an Houſe; at which when arriv'd, it gave him no ſmall Joy, and Comfort; foraſmuch as it was exceeding dark. He immediately ask'd for the Maſter of the Houſe,

Houſe, who came out, and finding *Menander* by his Equipage to be no mean Perſon, offer'd him the beſt his Houſe afforded.

Menander, without further Compliment, alights from his Horſe; of which when he had ſeen Care taken, goes in, where he was regal'd with a good Fir-buſh Fire, and ſome ordinary Cake they had; which, after ſo long a Fatigue, went down very pleaſantly.

After Supper, they both repair'd to the Fire, where the good Man was inform'd by *Menander*, of the miſerable Adventure of his Hunting; which, when he had concluded (with the many Repetitions of the Hardſhips he had undergone, and with as many Thanks to the Stars for their good Guidance of him thither, and to the old Father for his kind Reception and Entertainment;) the Landlord enquir'd of *Menander*, where he liv'd? and who he was? To which he gave him a very ſatisfac-

tory

tory Anſwer, Several other Diſcourſes paſs'd between them, 'till it grew very late, and then *Menander* was conducted to his Apartment; which, tho' but courſe and plain, was, no Doubt, very acceptable to him.

In the Morning when he aroſe, he was very civilly accoſted by his Generous Entertainer, who ſhew'd him his Gardens and Grounds adjacent; but juſt as they were coming out of a ſmall Grove, cloſe to a great Road, *Menander* ſpies *Sarinus* riding by; they immediately knew one another, but their Surprize was ſo great on Account of their accidental Meeting, that for ſome Time they could not expreſs their Minds to one another; till at length *Menander* broke the Way, and deſir'd his Friend to alight, which *Sarinus* did; at which the old Man took his Horſe, and they two went back to the Houſe; where, when they were come, and had taken a ſmall Repaſt, *Menander* gave *Sarinus* the whole

whole Account of his Tranſactions in the preceding Day; which, when he had concluded, made them all burſt into Laughter.

Well, (ſays Sarinus*) now you have done* Menander, *give me Leave alſo to entertain you with a Journal of my Yeſterday's Events: What Time you left us* (proceeded he) *we know not; for you are ſenſible how violent the Chace was. In ſhort, We did not miſs you 'till Afternoon, when the Stag coming to a Bay, we look'd about, but found Two or Three of our Company abſent, not doubting but that they were all thrown out, and oblig'd to return Home; and accordingly You among the reſt: Some Time after we ran him down, which put an End to our Purſuit. After this, the Remainder of our Company return'd Home; but as for me, I perceiv'd a Houſe, that appear'd at ſome Diſtance from me, which I took to be the Seat of my Uncle* Adolphus, *and was therefore reſolv'd to pay him a*

Vi-

Visit; since I was, as I thought, so near. But Menander *(proceeded* Sarinus*) what a Surprize it was to me to find myself, so contrary to my Expectations, mistaken; when I found it was not the House. I look'd back to see the Causes of my Mistake, and perceiv'd that Part of the Wood we came out of, very much resembl'd another about the same Distance from my Uncle's House.*

But to return to my Story; *Since I found myself (said* Sarinus*) so very near the House, I resolv'd to see what Entertainment I could find there. To be short, a Page, very well dress'd, took my Horse, while another led me into a spacious Hall; where I sate me down, admiring the Curious Paintings and Furniture of it; not knowing then, who the Master of it was. While I was thus musing by myself, a Door opens, and there appear'd to me a very Grave, Old Gentleman, who in a Civil, and most Obliging Manner, came towards me;*

and

and bid me Welcome. When he had taken his Seat, he desir'd me to do the same. As for the Variety of the Discourse that pass'd between us, it will be impossible, and needless to repeat; but only this I may say, he was a little surpriz'd, when he heard my Name; for I found then, and by some other Words that fell from the Old Gentleman, that our Families had not been Strangers to Each other; but all this While I knew him not. But, Menander, *how greatly surpriz'd do You think I was, when the Door of the Parlour open'd, and who should come in but the Beautiful, and Charming* Aurelia. *I rose up immediately to pay my Compliments to her, but she, perceiving a Stranger in the Room, with a low Obeisance withdrew. Then I knew him to be* Orontes, *and accordingly paid him that due Honour, and Respect, that his Age, and Quality commanded.*

Orontes *and* Aurelia (*cries out* Menander) *Why You dream* Sarinus ; *You are ſurely beſide Yourſelf :* Orontes *has been dead ſome Years, and the fair* Aurelia *is in the Hands of her Uncle in* Livonia, *who is her Guardian.*

What I tell you, Menander (*replies* Sarinus) *is a moſt certain Truth ; That I have once more beheld that Sun, that has ſo often before dazzl'd my Eyes. I was of your Opinion, that* Orontes *was dead ; but I am now fully convinc'd to the contrary.*

Orontes, *(cry'd out the Old Father, who was then juſt come in from the Field ;) dwells in a fine Houſe about a League diſtant from hence ; and his beautiful Daughter* Aurelia *with him : For tho' it was confidently reported he was dead, and* Aurelia *was with her Uncle in* Livonia, *it was not ſo ; for they have liv'd in this their Palace ever ſince they departed from your City.*

Me-

Menander was ſo much ſurpriz'd at this News, that he ſcarcely knew how to contain himſelf: He thought it a Dream, when he heard that his Dear, and Virtuous *Aurelia* (whoſe lovely Charms had long before this made ſo deep an Impreſſion in his Heart, that neither Time, nor Abſence could ever remove, or efface it;) was at no greater Diſtance from him. For,

To digreſs a little from *Sarinus*'s Story, we ſhall here obſerve, That *Menander*, (while *Aurelia* liv'd in the ſame City he did) was greatly enamour'd with her Beauty, and accordingly made his conſtant, and ſincere Addreſſes to her; all which She receiv'd in the moſt generous, and becoming Manner; ſo that he had ſome Reaſon to hope, that *Aurelia's* Breaſt was not ſo adamantine, but that ſhe might in Time entertain ſome Thoughts in his Favour.

Beſides his perſonal Addreſſes, he had (during his occaſional Abſence, and Engagement in the Affairs of his Poſt) ſent her many Letters; in which 'tis but reaſonable to imagine, that he, in the moſt paſſionate, and moving Eloquence, acquainted her with the ſincere Sentiments of his Heart, over which ſhe alone had the Dominion; and that even the Univerſe itſelf with all its Riches, Beauty, and Splendor, was to him, without her, nothing but a mean, and contemptible Poſſeſſion.

They had alſo frequent, and mutual Converſations with Each Other, for a conſiderable Time before her Father's Departure from that Place; in which happy, and delightful Moments, it may be conjectur'd, that Two Faithful Lovers did not only diſcloſe the Secrets of their Hearts to One another; but that as ſincere as was their Love, ſo it might be their Care to engage Each Other in a Reciprocal Tye of Vertuous Affection.

ſection. Theſe were the Grounds of *Menander*'s Hope.

About that Time there were ſeveral very Conſiderable Offers of Marriage made to *Aurelia*; among whom *Sarinus* (before his Travels) was One; all whom ſhe diſlik'd, and refus'd: *Menander* was the Only Happy Perſon, who had the Poſſeſſion of her Heart; and ſo ſincere, and permanent was her Love to him, that all the Addreſſes, and aſſiduous Applications of her other Suitors were altogether vain, and fruitleſs. For,

Orontes, (the Father of *Aurelia*) on ſome certain Diſguſt, one Evening remov'd his Family, and all his Effects from the Place, where he had liv'd a long While in Reputation, and Honour; which put the whole Town next Day into a very great Conſternation; there being no One able to give any Account Why? or Whither he was gone?

Some Time after this, a Report was ſpread that he dy'd in *Livonia*; and that his Daughter, the Fair *Aurelia*, was with her Uncle in that Place: This Relation was the more readily believ'd by Every One, ſince there was then no Reaſon to be offer'd to the contrary.

But to return to *Sarinus*, who went on with his Relation after this Manner: *After I had reſted myſelf well* (ſays he) *I was going to take my Leave of* Orontes; *but he would not ſuffer me to go away that Night. I could not well refuſe his Civil Requeſt, nor indeed, was I very willing. We had a Fine Entertainment, but as for* Aurelia, *I ſaw her no more. After Supper,* Orontes *led me to a Noble Chamber; where tho' I was extremely tyr'd, yet cou'd I hardly ſleep for the Thoughts of this ſtrange Adventure. This Morning I took my Leave of* Orontes, *and in my Return Homewards, as I was riding by this Houſe, I have the moſt agreeably ſur-*

prizing

prizing good Fortune to meet with my Friend Menander.

They continu'd their Diſcourſe 'till towards Noon, when they return'd Thanks to the Old Man for his civil, and kind Entertainment; and, mounting their Horſes, made the beſt of their Way to their reſpective Houſes: And during their Journey, *Menander*'s Thoughts were ſo taken up with the Remembrance of his beloved *Aurelia*, that whatever *Sarinus* ask'd him, or ſaid to him, he cou'd ſcarcely give him a proper Anſwer.

When *Menander* came Home, his Mind was fully bent on finding out ſome Way or other, that he might either ſee his fair *Aurelia*, or by ſome Means convey a Letter to her; but this was his Misfortune, that *Orontes*, her Father, kept a very watchful Eye over her. And after a Multitude of revolving Thoughts, he at laſt concluded upon a Method, which he, in his own Opinion, ap-

prov'd

prov'd of as the beſt, and moſt likely Way, to obtain the Sight of his Dear, and Beautiful *Aurelia:* And ſo intent was he upon it, that every Minute ſeem'd to him a Day 'till it was put in Execution.

The Evening, he deſign'd for this Purpoſe, was very fair; he mounted on Horſe-back, and after having rid the whole Night, he arriv'd in the Morning at the happy Palace, which enclos'd his only Pearl of Value, and Delight of his Soul; he knock'd at the Gate, which was immediately open'd to him by a Lacquey. *Menander* told him he was a Traveller, and had loſt his Way in the Night, and deſir'd that he might repoſe himſelf a little there.

Orontes came forth to ſee who was at his Gate, and was much ſurpris'd to find *Menander* in Diſcourſe with his Page; and with Abundance of Reſpect came to him, and took him by the Hand, and conducted him into a pleaſant, and richly fur-

furniſh'd Room, where he was generouſly entertain'd by *Orontes*; who very well knew *Menander*, and was ſomething ſenſible of the former Eſteem he had for his Daughter *Aurelia*; and indeed, he was the Only Perſon among all her Admirers, for whom She had any real Value, or Eſteem. And to ſay the Truth of *Menander*, he was ſo accompliſh'd a Perſon, that all who knew him, and had Converſation with him, could not but love, and admire both the Comelineſs of his Perſon, and the Politeneſs of his Behaviour.

Some Time after they were ſeated, *Aurelia's* Waiting-maid *Belcina* enters the Room on ſome Occaſion; and ſeeing *Menander*, ſhe immediately knew him: Hereupon ſhe, ſtarting back, flies with Joy to her Miſtreſs, to acquaint her, that her Beloved *Menander* was below with her Father. This unexpected News, how welcome ſoever it might be to

the

the Fair *Aurelia*, was yet ſo extremely ſurprizing that ſhe ſwooned away; and during the Violence of her Fits, ſeveral Times repeated the Name of *Menander*.

After a ſmall Time, by *Belcina*'s Care and Aſſiſtance, *Aurelia* came to herſelf; and when tolerably well recover'd, ſhe call'd for Pen, Ink, and Paper, with full Reſolution to write a Letter to him; which, when ſhe had finiſh'd, ſhe deliver'd to *Belcina*; with Orders, if poſſible, to convey it privately into his Hands. And, according to her Wiſh, a fair Opportunity offer'd; for her Father *Orontes* being call'd out on ſome particular Occaſion, ſhe as a diligent, and faithful Servant to her Dear, and Diſtreſſed Miſtreſs, laid hold of it; and immediately came into the Room, and preſented to *Menander* the Letter; and retir'd, without waiting for an Anſwer.

This Action, how unaccountable ſoever it may appear to the nicely Coy

Coy Ones, was not more ſurprizing, than it was agreeable to the Loving *Menander*; eſpecially, when looking on the Superſcription, he found it to be the Hand-Writing of his Dear Fair One: How often did he kiſs it? How often did he preſs it to his Heart? He was afraid to open it, yet loth to loſe ſo fair an Opportunity; and perceiving himſelf alone, between Hope and Deſpair, he ventur'd to do it; and found the Contents ſo raviſhing, that he then thought himſelf to be the happieſt of all Men on Earth. The Letter was this.

SEveral Years are paſt ſince You firſt made to me a Declaration of your Love: You have now by Chance an Opportunity put into your Hands of informing me whether it be real, and conſtant: And if Time, and Abſence have not effac'd all Impreſſions of that Kind, this Evening in our Grove You may meet Aurelia.

Me-

Menander was ſo tranſported at this Letter, that, at the Return of *Orontes*, his Looks were ſo confus'd, that he might eaſily have perceiv'd a vaſt Alteration in them. After Dinner *Menander* made a Motion to go, giving many Thanks to his kind Benefactor, for his free and generous Entertainment; and accordingly was taking his Leave. *Orontes*, at his Departure, with his uſual Generoſity, told him, that whenever he came that Way, he ſhould always find an hearty Welcome; and alſo, that he hoped the Reſpect he formerly profeſs'd to have for his Family was not ceas'd; and withal inform'd him, that *Sarinus* had made to him Overtures of Marriage with his Daughter *Aurelia*.

This was unwelcome News to *Menander*, who (tho' *Sarinus* and He were conſtant Companions, and were wont to unboſom their moſt ſecret Thoughts to each other;) was not made acquainted by *Sari-*

nus

nus with this Part of his Conduct. However, upon the whole Matter, as far as *Menander* could learn from *Orontes* was, That he had given Leave to *Sarinus* to make his Addreſſes to her, and that he had been there once; and concluded his Diſcourſe with Commendations of his Riches, and his Perſon; and withal ſaid, that he thought him to be a Perſon worthy of his Daughter.

Theſe laſt Words ſomewhat ſtartled *Menander*; however the Encouragement he had from *Aurelia*'s Letter, and *Orontes*'s kind Invitation, gave him ſtill Ground to hope for an happy Iſſue in his Love. For he was ſenſible, that the Riches of *Sarinus* muſt be the Only-prevailing Motive, that could engage *Aurelia*'s Father to liſten to any Propoſal offer'd by him for the Marriage of his Daughter.

Menander took no further Notice of it; but ſaluting *Orontes*, left him. But he was now at a Loſs how to

ſpend his Time till the Evening came, when he was to meet his Dear *Aurelia*; but riding about he came to a Wood, where he alights from his Horſe, and ſits himſelf down on a Turff of Graſs, meditating on the various Circumſtances of his Adventure; ſometimes forming an Idea of *Aurelia's* Charms, of which he conceives in his Mind, he alone ſhall be the Poſſeſſor: Sometimes blaming *Sarinus* for his Breach of Friendſhip and Fidelity; and at other Times reflecting upon the vaſt Power of Riches, with which his Rival abounded; and how far that might gain upon *Aurelia's* Heart he knew not. But the Concluſion of all his Thoughts was this: *Surely*, Aurelia *loves me; this very Letter declares the Sentiments of her Heart: I am aſſur'd, ſhe is too good, and her Nature too obliging, than to give me Grounds for Hope, when ſhe really means to drive me to ſad Deſpair.*

With

With ſuch Amuſements as theſe he ſpent his Time 'till Sun-ſet, when he got upon his Horſe, and came to the Grove; where he alighted, and ty'd his Horſe to a Tree, and rang'd about, expecting every little Noiſe, or Motion was the Steps of his Lovely, and Belov'd *Aurelia*; who at laſt appears, leaning upon *Belcina*'s Arm. *Menander* immediately eſpy'd her, and approach'd her with a becoming, gentle Pace, (which beſpoke both Love and Reſpect to his Dear Charmer;) and kneeling down, without ſpeaking a Word, embrac'd her fair Hand, and preſs'd it with the moſt paſſionate Eloquence of Silence to his Heart.

What artful Imagination can deſcribe? What Eloquent Tongue can expreſs the various Pangs, and Paſſions of theſe Lovers Souls! But this I leave to thoſe who are the unhappy, happy Subjects to the ſame ſovereign Power. To go on,

The Lovely *Aurelia* rais'd him from the Ground, and with the moſt violent Tranſport of Love cries out, *Is* Menander *ſtill faithful! Ah!* (reply'd he) Menander's *Heart is as immoveable as a Rock; and ſcorns the Contingencies of Time and Fortune. It is ſtill faithful, my Fair, my Dear* Aurelia; *or it is no more* Menander's.

He was going on, when ſhe took him by the Hand, and led him into an Arbour. Hereupon *Belcina* withdrew, to give the Lovers the Opportunity of their more private Diſcourſe; and to prevent any Interruption that might accidentally happen. They preſently made one another ſenſible of their Love, and ſeveral Times repeated their Promiſes to one another of endleſs, and immoveable Conſtancy.

They related the Hiſtory of their Adventures to Each other; and now was *Menander* made acquainted with the Reaſons of *Orontes*'s leaving the City

City ſo abruptly: Which was, that he had Intelligence by a particular Friend at Court, that a Complaint had been made to the King concerning him to this Purpoſe: 'That he was a Perſon of great Ambition; and ſuch, and ſo great were his Deſires of attaining vaſt Riches, and Honour, that he was going to attempt a Deſign of the utmoſt Conſequence, in Prejudice to the King, and State." How the King reſented it, he was told the Day before his ſudden Departure; and that there were ſeveral Perſons in Diſguiſe, who had Orders to ſeize him the next Day. Upon which he remov'd his Family, and all his Effects that Night out of the City of *Sandina*; and retir'd to this his Seat, which was very obſcure: On one Side cloſe to the Sea, and on the other inclos'd with a very great Wood.

But to return to our Lovers, the Day approach'd very faſt, and the Sun was ſome Degrees above the

Horiſon, which oblig'd them to retire; and as ſhe walked with *Menander* to the End of the Grove, where he left his Horſe, he took the Opportunity to mention to her what *Orontes* had ſaid to him, concerning her Marriage with *Sarinus*. She acknowledg'd it was her Father's Deſign, but withal deſir'd him not to torment his Mind on that Account; but to continue faithful, and conſtant in his Love; and ſhe hoped, that in Time the Event would be to both their Deſires and Satisfaction. They confirm'd theſe Things with Abundance of Kiſſes, and ſo they took their Leaves of Each Other: *Menander* mounted his Horſe, and made the beſt of his Way for the City; and his Belov'd *Aurelia* retir'd to her Father's Houſe again.

As ſoon as *Menander* came home, he apply'd himſelf to his uſual Affairs; in the Evening *Sarinus* paid him a Viſit, and in all their Converſation at that Time, he made no men-

mention of *Orontes* or *Aurelia*. They were then very merry; and *Sarinus* ſeem'd to be in a much pleaſanter Humour, than *Menander* had obſerv'd him to be for ſome Time paſt: Each of them had their particular Thoughts; *Menander* behav'd himſelf with all the Air, and Freedom becoming a Gentleman in the Reception of his Friend, and without the leaſt Appearance of Regret; tho' in his Mind, perhaps, he might be a little diſturb'd at the extream Mirth, and jovial Carriage of *Sarinus*; who amongſt other Things told *Menander*, he deſign'd the next Day, to pay a Viſit to a Relation of his, who liv'd at ſome Diſtance from thence; and that he believ'd, he ſhould not be at Home for a Day or two. *Menander* immediately fathom'd the Depth of his Deſign, but without any further Obſervation, than that of only wiſhing him a good Journey; and ſo for that Night they parted.

Sa-

Sarinus, according to his Deſign, ſet out the next Day for the Seat of *Orontes*; at which, when he arriv'd, he was receiv'd by him with all proper Civilities, and made extreamly welcome; entertaining him with the beſt, and choiceſt of every Thing. But all theſe Civilities avail'd him nothing: They had not Virtue, or Power enough to appeaſe that Diſturbance of Mind, which the cold Reception, and auſtere Reſervedneſs of the Fair *Aurelia* had at that Time created in it. Who, but thoſe that have felt the Power of Love, are able to diſcover the Tortures created by it? What can give greater Pain to the Love-ſick Mind of a paſſionate Lover, than to ſee his Love and Services treated with inflexible Coldneſs, or Contempt! This was *Sarinus*'s unhappy Circumſtance: This ſet all his Thoughts on Work, and fill'd his Mind with various Imaginations; all which were not ſufficient to unfold the Meaning of *Aurelia*'s Treatment.

For

For ſhe ſeem'd, as he thought, when he viſited her laſt, to be extreamly affable, and complaiſant; but now ſhe was directly the contrary. He ſaid a thouſand paſſionate Things to her; yea, whatever Love could invent, and inſpire him with; but for all this, he could not poſſibly find out the Cauſe, or Reaſons, why he was ſo coldly, and unkindly receiv'd by her. And after having repeated his Profeſſions of Love, ſupported by his ſtrongeſt Arguments; She anſwer'd him very ſlightly thus: *All You ſay*, Sarinus, *may be very true; and I may believe that You love me; but if You will make it appear that you do ſo, and are willing, and ready to oblige me; You muſt then deſiſt from all Attempts of this Kind; and lay aſide all Hopes of ever obtaining me in Marriage; ſince neither your Perſon, nor your Riches are acceptable to me, nor can they be of any Service to you in your Suit; it is a Thing impoſſible for me to com-*

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ply with your Offers; nor will I ever conſent to it.

She added further, *I am very ſenſible, that my Father has given You Encouragement, and Leave to make your Addreſſes to me; and I am as ſenſible, that my Duty to him requires my Obedience, aud Compliance to his Will and Diſpoſal; yet as Love is a Noble, and a Divine Principle, an Emanation of the Deity, and the Gift of Heaven to its Truly Vertuous, and Religious Votaries; ſo I think myſelf under an higher Obligation to obey its Dictates, than to yield a blind Obedience to the Will, and Commands of a Parent, whoſe Views ſeem rather to be directed to the Honour and Wealth of his Family, than to the Comfort, Happineſs, and Peace of his Daughter. I, therefore, deſire You to take this Anſwer for a full Denial, and not at all to regret my Refuſal.*

Sarinus was juſt going to reply, when *Orontes* came into the Room; *Aurelia*, on ſome Pretence, immediately

diately withdrew; and left him alone with her Father. *Sarinus*, tho' exceedingly diſturb'd at *Aurelia*'s Anſwer, had more Diſcretion than to make mention of any Thing that had paſs'd between them; ſuggeſting in his own Mind, that the Modeſty, and Coyneſs peculiar to the Sex, was only the Occaſion of it.

Orontes, and *Sarinus*, without taking any Notice on either Side, of the Love Affair, began to diſcourſe upon various Subjects; and among other Things, he told *Sarinus*, that by Chance he had the good Fortune of ſeeing his Old Friend *Menander*; who, in travelling had loſt his Way, and accidentally alighted at his Houſe for Refreſhment; and, at the ſame Time, ſaid many Things in Commendation of his Perſon and Merit.

Sarinus was confounded at this News, and now began to think he had diſcover'd the ſecret Cauſe of *Aurelia*'s Coldneſs, and Refervedneſs

to

to him; the more he thought on *Menander*'s Viſit, he was the more confirm'd, that this Change of her Behaviour to him was deriv'd from it: For he very well knew, that in Times paſt, ſhe had always ſhewn a particular Eſteem and Reſpect for him. Oh! how did he then condemn himſelf, for once mentioning the Name of *Aurelia* to *Menander*, when they accidentally met at the Cottage! This likewiſe brought freſh to his Memory, what a Paſſion *Menander* was in, when *Aurelia* was but nam'd; and from hence he was more, and more aſſur'd in his own Mind, that *Menander*, and he alone, muſt be the Obſtacle in his Way; and the only Perſon on whoſe Account he had met with that Repulſe, and Diſdain. Notwithſtanding *Aurelia*'s unkind Treatment, and abſolute Refuſal of *Sarinus*, and the various Conjectures he had of the Cauſes of it, he yet took no Notice of theſe to *Orontes*; but conſidering his

his Stay was likely to be of little Service to him at that Juncture, he, therefore, reſolv'd on going Home: *Orontes*, ignorant of theſe Matters, us'd all proper Arguments to perſuade his Stay that Night; but he, being grievouſly perplex'd in Mind, refus'd, under a Pretence, that ſome extraordinary Affairs requir'd his Preſence at Home; and accordingly he took his Leave of him. *Aurelia*, when ſhe heard he was going, came down; of whom he took Leave, with the Promiſe of a ſpeedy Return; hoping he might then find her of another Diſpoſition, and ſo departed.

Sarinns's Thoughts, while he was riding homewards, were in a great Confuſion concerning this unexpected Accident; for he could not imagine, how *Menander* ſhould have made a Viſit there, having, to the beſt of his Knowledge, never miſs'd him out of Town, ſince the Time they went on hunting together: However

he thought after all, that the ſtrict Friendſhip, and intimate Correſpondence between them, might have induc'd *Menander* to have made him privy to his Deſign of giving *Orontes* a Viſit: And becauſe he did not, he took it as a Breach of that Friendſhip, and Intimacy, that was between them.

But *Sarinus* (like ſome Moderns, who require a Sincerity they do not practiſe;) had forgotten his own Folly, and Falſhood; and that he himſelf had been guilty of a greater Breach of Friendſhip towards *Menander*; foraſmuch as he knew long before the Time of his accidental Coming to the Houſe of *Orontes*, that there was a Love Affair between *Menander* and *Aurelia*; and for what he might know, they might have been under mutual Engagements to Each Other; and if ſo, then *Sarinus*, was not only guilty of a Breach of Friendſhip, but of the higheſt Ingratitude and Injuſtice to

to his Friend, by making an Offer of Marriage to her Father; and deſigning by Courtſhip to weaken, or withdraw the Affections of *Aurelia*, to whom the Heart of his Friend was firmly, and ſincerely engag'd. And.

This Conduct of *Sarinus* is a plain Inſtance of an ill grounded Friendſhip, and his unhappy Fate ought to be a Leſſon to all After-Ages in Caſes of the like Nature; for next to the villanous Practice of *Seducing a Man's Wife*, is that baſe, and wicked One of *Rivalling a Friend:* The ſad Conſequences of Proceedings of this Kind, have been the Foundation of many Miſeries and Misfortunes to innumerable Families; all, or moſt of which, it might reaſonably be expected, would have been prevented, had the Objects of their firſt Affections been preferr'd to the Money-Matches, and forced Marriages by the Commands of cruel, and unnatural Parents, and Guardians. But

let this ſuffice at this Time, and return to our Story.

Sarinus, whom we left riding homewards, with his Head full of Thoughts, and his Heart of Reſolution, that when he came home, if it was poſſible, he would find out the Truth of his Conjectures; and if he could, he would learn it from *Menander*'s own Mouth.

To this Purpoſe a fair Opportunity offer'd: For *Menander* hearing of *Sarinus's* Return, went to pay him a Viſit; *Sarinus* receiv'd him with all the outward Marks of Eſteem, and Friendſhip imaginable; tho' the Thoughts of *Aurelia*'s laſt Reception internally vexed his Soul; and he was more ſo, when he call'd to Mind *Menander*'s Viſit, and *Orontes*'s Commendations of *Menander*, with ſome other additional Cauſes, of which he took Notice at that Time; all theſe together were ſo many ſad Aggravations to his Vexation, and put him into ſo confus'd a

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Poſture, that it was impoſſible for him to conceal his Uneaſineſs. Hereupon *Menander* asked him the Occaſion of this Alteration, but *Sarinus* paſs'd it over with ſome trifling Excuſe for Anſwer; which put a full End to their Diſcourſe, and Company at that time.

Menander concluded the Occaſion of *Sarinus's* Diſturbance aroſe from the Coldneſs of *Aurelia's* Reception of him; the Reflection of which gave *Menander* an uncommon Pleaſure, and fix'd in his Mind a juſt Admiration, and Love of her Conſtancy and Virtue; eſteeming himſelf the happieſt of Men in being the Object of her Love, and Choice.

While this was *Menander's* happy State, we may conclude *Sarinus's* was a melancholy One; who jealous of being rejected, fearful of being diſappointed, and conſcious of *Menander's* Merits, reſolv'd by ſome Means to find out the Secret. Accordingly an Opportunity offer'd in a

few Days after; by which *Sarinus* was fully freed from his Suſpicions by very plain Proofs, that *Aurelia*'s Diſdain of him was grounded on her Eſteem for *Menander*; who mounting his Horſe one Eveuing, as he had done before, came very early to the Grove, where he before had the Happineſs of his Miſtriſs's Converſation. *Sarinus*, who had his Spies Abroad, to obſerve *Menander*'s Motions, underſtood the Matter, and follow'd him at a conſiderable Diſtance. *Menander* having no Suſpicion of *Sarinus*'s Plot, alights from his Horſe, and ty'd him to a Tree, and then look'd about, if poſſibly, he could ſee his Deareſt *Aurelia*; and accordingly he approach'd very near the Houſe, where he ſaw *Belcina* looking out of a Window; for it was a bright Moon-ſhiny Night.

Belcina ſeeing a Man betwen the Trees, was going to call out; but *Menander*, by a Sign immediately made her ſenſible it was he; as ſoon

as

as ſhe knew him, ſhe ſpeedily repairs to *Aurelia*'s Chamber, and acquainted her with the News of *Menander*'s Arrival; who, tho' ſurpriz'd, was yet raviſh'd at the Thoughts of his being there: She ſoon dreſs'd herſelf, and came down, and opening a little Door that led to the Grove, ſhe flew to the Arms of her Lover; while *Belcina* ſtood Centinel to prevent Interruption. Who, (but thoſe in like Circumſtances) can deſcribe the Joy, and Pleaſure of theſe two Lovers at their Meeting together; when there paſs'd between them the moſt tender Expreſſions Love could invent; while a jealous, diſappointed, and a revengeful *Sarinus* (to them unknown) ſtood at ſome Diſtance behind a Tree unſeen, and heard all that paſs'd. If the Pleaſures of Love were ſo delightful to them, how tormenting muſt be the Hatred of a deſpiſed and rejected *Sarinus*? who, ready to burſt with Anger and Confuſion, had ſometimes reſolv'd to

make

make *Menander* an immediate Sacrifice o his Rage, had he not conceiv'd it to be a cowardly, and ungenerous Action.

Sarinus at laſt concluded to repair Home privately, being well aſſur'd of the Truth of his Suſpicions); and there to take the Opportunity of deciding the Difference betwen him and *Menander* by a fair Combat; but juſt as he was going, he heard *Aurelia* ſay to *Menander* thus: *Under this Stone* (pointing to a Stone which lay at the Root of a Beach-Tree) *let your Letters be left, when an Opportunity ſhall be wanting for an immediate Interview; from thence ſhall* Belcina *take your Letters, and ſhall leave my Anſwers.* And then, with the moſt endearing Expreſſions, they took their Leave of each other, and parted.

Sarinus (whoſe Head and Heart were fully employ'd) at this Time took particular Notice of this Tree; and if the Notion of a Pleaſure in

Pain

Pain may be admitted, he then enjoy'd it; when he thought, he had now found a fair Opportunity for giving *Menander* a Challenge; and did, therefore, reſolve, if it was poſſible, to get one of *Aurelia's* Letters for the Foundation of a Quarrel. They both went Home by a different Road; *Menander* all the While ignorant of the Deſign *Sarinus* had laid againſt him; and in *Sarinus* was fully verify'd the Saying of a Wiſe Prince, that *Love is ſtrong as Death, Jealouſy is cruel as the Grave.*

The next Day *Menander* went to ſee *Sarinus*, whoſe Page excus'd the Viſit; pretending his Maſter was very much indiſpos'd. *Menander* knew not what to make of this Slight, but He concluded, (and with Juſtice too) that it was deriv'd from the ſame Cauſe, which occaſion'd his Confuſion, when they were laſt in Company together. Nevertheleſs he paſs'd it by, and the Day following eh

he wrote a Letter to *Aurelia*, which he committed to the Care of One of his Servants, with Orders to convey it to the Place agreed upon between them; and gave him Directions accordingly.

Sarinus had his Spies abroad, who watch'd every Motion of *Menander*: One of whom brought Word to their Maſter, that *Lorus*, one of *Menander*'s Servants was gone out of Town; the Place to which he was gone, was not long in Diſpute; for *Sarinus* immediately gave Orders to One of them, to make the beſt of his Way after him, and to conceal himſelf behind a particular Tree in the Grove of *Orontes*, at ſome ſmall Diſtance from a Beach-Tree, at the Root of which lay a Stone; and from thence take a View of what *Lorus* did; ſtrictly commanding him, that if *Lorus* left a Letter, not to touch it; but to wait ſome Time, and ſee if any Body came for it; and if another Letter was convey'd to the ſame

Place,

Place, to bring that only with all poſſible Speed to him.

This happen'd right to the Deſign of *Sarinus*, for the Perſon whom he ſent, ſtood ſecure behind an Oak, ſees *Lorus* lay down the Letter, and ſome Time after he ſaw *Belcina* come out of the Houſe, and take it up, and carry it in; and ſoon after return again, and lay another in the ſame Place.

Lorus, after he had put the Letter in its Place, went away, intending to return again for the Anſwer a little While after; but in the Interval of his Abſence, *Sarinus*'s Servant, who ſaw *Belcina* leave the Letter, took it up, and rode home with full Speed; and in great Joy deliver'd it to his Maſter. *Sarinus* receiv'd it with Indignation and Rage, but when he had perus'd the Contents, he rav'd, and ſtamp'd about the Room in a moſt violent Paſſion, curſing his miſerable Fate, and all the Female Sex for the Sake of his deceitful *Aurelia*, as he call'd her: The Contents of the Letter were as follow. Dear-

Deareſt *Menander*,

WHAT Modeſty diſallows, the Powers of Love command: Receive This, therefore, as a Token of the Submiſſion I ought to pay to thoſe Powers, which ſubdue Impoſſibilities. Love commands me to tell You, that You, and You alone, are mine: Mine by Deſtiny, and mine by Choice. Let Sarinus *vainly ground his Expectations on his Riches, but let* Menander *depend upon the entire Poſſeſſion of the Heart of* Aurelia.

Oh! What violent Emotions of Soul poſſeſs'd *Sarinus*, when this Letter came into his Thoughts! What Agonies! What precipitate, and raſh Reſolutions revolv'd in his Mind! He would ſometimes curſe the Stars, as the Authors of his Misfortunes; ſometimes he would cry out, *Ah! Cruel, and Ungrateful* Aurelia! *why muſt I be a Victim to* ------- Then would he ſtand ſtill with his Arms folded, without ſpeaking a Word for ſome

ſome Time; and then fly out again into Paſſion and Rage, like One bereav'd of Senſe. But to be ſhort, his final Reſolution was *Revenge, Revenge. Menander* (cries he) *is the Cauſe of my Miſery and Misfortunes; therefore* Menander *ſhall dye:* And accordingly he call'd for Pen, Ink, and Paper, and ſent him the following Letter.

Menander,

AURELIA *is the Only Object of my Love, and without her I cannot live; therefore, as You are the Author of my Miſery, I challenge You, as a Man of Honour, to meet me to Morrow Morning at Six of the Clock, under the Porch of the* Caſtle Gate *with your Sword; there to make it appear who has the moſt Right to* Aurelia. Sarinus.

Menander was ſurpriz'd at this Meſſage, but concluding it was *Aurelia*, the charming *Aurelia*, on

whoſe Account this Conteſt fell out; he ſcorned to ſhew himſelf unworthy of her, by Reſigning his Title to his Rival; and, therefore, return'd him this following Anſwer.

Sarinus,

YOUR Challenge ſhall be comply'd with, in reſpect to both Time and Place by Menander.

Accordingly Early in the Morning they met: No ſooner did *Menander* ſee his Rival, but he attempted to argue the Caſe with him, and endeavour'd to bring him to Reaſon; (which is a ſure Proof of a brave Man, who prefers the Life of his Fellow Creature to all other Conſiderations) but *Sarinus*, full of Revenge, made a full Paſs at him before he had well Time to draw his Sword; but *Menander* parried the Thruſt, and immediately ran *Sarinus* into the Hip; by this Wound he fell, and begg'd his Life; which

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Menander freely granted him: But after *Sarinus* had a little recover'd himſelf, he returns again, and told *Menander*, That *Without* Aurelia *he could not live*; and immediately made another Paſs at *Menander*, which wounded him in the left Arm: This provok'd him to ſuch a Degree, that after a very little Skirmiſh, *Sarinus* receiv'd a violent Thruſt in the Body, of which he immediately dy'd, only liv'd to ſay, *Menander*, Aurelia *is Yours.*

Menander (notwithſtanding his high Poſt and great Reputation) thought it beſt to withdraw himſelf to ſome Place of Shelter for a while; but the great Friends of *Sarinus* follow'd him cloſe, and at laſt found him out; whereupon he was committed to the Caſtle, and after having been ſome Time there, he had a Trial, and was condemn'd to loſe his Head.

At this Juncture of Time, *Orontes*, the Father of *Aurelia* fell ſick, and

in few Days departed this Life to the great Grief of his Lovely Daughter; who, upon his Death, return'd to *Sandina*, there to live with her Aunt. But Oh! what a diſmal Surpriſe was ſhe in, when ſhe heard the dreadful News: She had, tis true, a generous Pity, and Concern for the Death of *Sarinus*, whoſe unhappy Fate was occaſion'd by his own Folly and Raſhneſs; but her Grief was inconſolable for her Dear *Menander*: That Menander *muſt dye!* The Thoughts of this threw her into ſo violent a Fever, that her Life was deſpair'd of by all her Friends.

In the mean Time, *Menander* had many Friends about the King, who made all poſſible Intereſt for him, and powerfully ſolicited for his Pardon; leaving no Stone unturn'd, that they might obtain it: But the Time of Execution was come, and no Pardon ſeem'd near, he went to the Place where he was to dye, with a noble, and undanted Courage; He was dreſs'd

dreſs'd in white, with a Prieſt on each Side of him; when he came there, after he had given a Letter to one of his Friends, to deliver to his *Aurelia*, the Contents whereof were not known, he kneeled down before the Block; when, on a ſudden at a conſiderable Diſtance, ſeveral Perſons were eſpy'd riding Poſt, and making Signs, as tho' their Buſineſs was of great Importance; this, together with the Voice of the Multitude, occaſion'd the Excutioner to deſiſt, till they arriv'd at the Place, and declar'd their Meſſage. But when it appear'd to be a Pardon for *Menander*, it is impoſſible to expreſs the Greatneſs of the Acclamations and Rejoycings, not only among the Croud in general; but even throughout the whole City.

This ſudden and ſurprizing News, when it reach'd *Aurelia's* Ears, had like to have prov'd more fatal than had been her Diſtemper. But what Imagination can conceive, or Tongue

expreſs, how great the Joy between theſe Lovers muſt be, eſpecially when *Menander* was ſoon after convey'd to *Aurelia's* Chamber, where in Raptures of Joy and with open Arms She receiv'd and embrac'd him; and there paſs'd between them ſuch tender, and raviſhing Endearments, as melted the Spectators Hearts, and caus'd many of them to expreſs their Senſe of them in Floods of Tears.

Menander's Friends came in Numbers, as well to ſhew the Greatneſs of the Concern they had for his threat'ned Danger, as to congratulate his wonderful, and ſeaſonable Deliverance; expreſſing their grateful Acknowledgements to that DIVINE POWER, which, in ſo much Wiſdom and Goodneſs, had preſerv'd his innocent Life, and reſerv'd for him, as the Reward of his Love and Conſtancy, his Charming, and Vertuous *Aurelia*; and at the ſame Time declaiming againſt the Falſhood, Folly, and Wickedneſs of *Sarinus*; and declar'd

clar'd him to be the Cauſe of his own Death, wiſhing that the like Puniſhment might overtake all thoſe, who perſu'd the ſame baſe, and wicked Deſigns, as *Sarinus* had done againſt the Generous *Menander*.

But this Joy was ſoon after ſucceeded by One more Compleat and Univerſal; for in a little Time, theſe Two Lovers were join'd together in *Hymen's* Bands, to their own, and their Friends mutual Satisfaction: In this Happy State they continu'd many Years, and as their Days encreas'd, ſo did their Love; which was happily crown'd with a Numerous, and Hopeful PROGENY.

Thus let all Conſtant Love triumphant reign,
And over Rage victorious remain;
Bright as the Sun, tranſparent as its Rays,
Let Conſtant Love the wond'ring World amaze;
Crown'd with terreſtial Bleſſings let it live,
Fully ſupply'd with what this World can give;
May then Celeſtial Honours theſe enſue,
For ſuch as theſe to Conſtant Love are due.

FINIS.